

TOC H JOURNAL

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Nos. 4 and 5

Quality and Quantity

HOW MANY MEMBERS of Toc H are there in the United Kingdom? That is a question often asked, both inside and outside our movement, and the answer hitherto has been guesswork. In our early day one newspaper reported that Toc H was a million strong: that was, and is likely to remain, a wild over-statement. "About 50,000" is a figure often quoted in recent years, and probably that ought to be—but is not—a fact. In the Annual Report issued with this number precise figures of membership at the beginning and the end of a year are given for the first time. They show that the total at the close of 1952 (after over 2,000 men had come in and rather fewer had gone out) was a little over 19,000—a net gain in twelve months of only 76 members.

Toc H has never been overmuch interested in statistics; it has rested rather complacently on the maxim that "it is quality, not quantity, that counts". What, then, about quality? It is worth noting that "about 19,000" has been for a number of years the membership of the Society of Friends in the United Kingdom, and it is fair to claim that the influence of Quakers in our country's life is out of all proportion to this modest total. Is this also true of Toc H? Some of us hope that it is, but it is continually up to us to make sure.

Then, as to quantity. Why is it that, in a world never more in need of the service of men of good will and Christian conviction, hundreds or thousands of such men pass us unrecognised every day? They scarcely know the name of Toc H; they believe it to be an ex-service club or a patent medicine—and we, who need reinforcements so urgently if we are to tackle our real jobs, have never tried to undeceive them. Supposing every member brought in one stranger, or one friend, a year ——. It is high time to turn supposition into action.

The Floods Came

Then bankes came downe with ruin and rout—
Then beaten foam flew round about—
Then all the mighty floods were out . . .
The feet had hardly time to flee
Before it brake against the knee.
And all the world was in the sea.

JEAN INGELOW. *The High Tide in Lincolnshire*, 1571.

WHEN THE FLOODS CAME all along the East Coast on that terrible last night of January this year Toc H in many places suffered but was nowhere found wanting. Here are some scattered notes from reports which have reached us.

On the Lincolnshire Coast

Of all our units *Sutton-on-Sea*, a large and flourishing Branch, was the worst hit. Every member there was made homeless: most of the men have been living in lodgings at Alford and elsewhere, with their families evacuated further afield. The new Branch *Mablethorpe*, too, has had its lively career interrupted. One or two members' homes fortunately were not flooded, but many had to be evacuated like the Sutton folk. At *Chape' St. Leonards* the homes of most members escaped untouched but one or two were seriously affected, notably that of Arthur Barton, who has reached a very full age: he and his wife were marooned and hung on doggedly. Though there is considerable hardship in the case of many of our members, we are thankful to say that there has been no loss of life among them.

The whole tragedy, as all the world knows, was tackled by the authorities in the most realistic and thorough manner, and it was an inspiration to see the emergency services of the Forces and the police, the Red Cross and W.V.S., and of civilians of all kinds at work. In all this Toc H on the spot and from further away bore its part. Though in great trouble themselves, Mablethorpe and Sutton members were able in many cases to perform valiant service for their neighbours even during the first crucial week-end when the water coming in stranded some of them for twenty-four hours. The Area staff were able, from the second day of the floods, to maintain the closest contact through *Alton* Branch with Mablethorpe

and Sutton; a few members from all three places got together on the first Wednesday evening and were later invited to meet other units from the Central Kesteven District to discuss further plans.

The District organised a working party of twenty-six members and, starting early on Sunday, February 22 from Grantham, transported them by 'bus to Sutton to spend the whole day in preliminary cleaning out of houses. They did an admirable job which resulted in the Parish Church, the Church Hall and the Toc H room in the old school being cleaned out ready for the population when it returns; they also tackled six private houses in the same determined manner. This cleaning job calls for hard work by a steady flow of Toc H volunteers for many weeks to come. In the first instance the shifting of grime, filth and sand is a job for men, and then there will be plenty of work for the women folk. Those who need help most are the aged and infirm who have no men about the house.

Many units which did not suffer themselves were, of course, engaged in relief and welfare work. Members from *Skegness* and *Burgh* concentrated on flooded Ingoldwells; *Louth* helped to organise evacuees; *Maltby* rescued many animals. At *Alford*, where the military headquarters to control the whole 'incident' was set up, many members gave yeoman service in all sorts of capacities—in special constabulary, civil defence, centres for reception, feeding and rest, messenger services, etc. A certain amount of money from other Areas has reached Norman Macpherson, the Area Padre, to be used at his discretion in the emergency.

In East Anglia

In the East Anglian Area fifteen Branches lie in the districts which were flooded, but our members came off better than could be hoped. Only fourteen seem to have had water—varying from one inch to seven feet—in their homes: three were completely flooded out, seven seriously affected. No Branch rooms were damaged.

It is impossible to give an adequate picture of the way members got busy as soon as the water exceeded its bounds. A number spent all the night on that fateful Saturday rowing about in the odd boat "which just floated up to me" or grabbed a boat from the Children's Lake. Many more members were added to this number on the Sunday and subsequent weeks.

helping in Emergency Centres, filling sandbags, hoisting the victims, salvaging furniture, carpets, household utensils, and at week-ends, and sometimes during the week—helping in any and every way they could.

Even now there is still work to do and Branch teams are cleaning and scrubbing out Churches, Chapels and Schools in addition to private homes. Furniture is being cleaned, dried, stored and restored to owners as opportunity permits. One Branch Room cannot be used as it is full to the doors with carpets, cleaned at the local Laundry where the members have helped in the evenings and at week-ends. It is impossible to estimate the amount of clothes collected and distributed direct or through the W.V.S. Some Branches also found time to organise all sorts of efforts to raise money for the National Flood Relief Fund. The outstanding feature was that members got down to the job everywhere without waiting to be organised. Team work followed later when the need to concentrate on this or that job



The Display arranged by King's Lynn Branch at their local cinema

became clear.

The case of *King's Lynn* is worth mention, for the Branch was caught at a peculiar moment. All arrangements had just been made for team-work at the local Majestic Cinema for the forthcoming showing of the film, *Cry the Beloved Country*. A Toc H display was already in position in the foyer of the Cinema, a rota of members, two at a time, was ready to go on duty. Messrs. W. H. Smith were helping with a display of books, visits of hospital patients and distribution of leaflets were arranged—and then the floods came. The Branch treasurer tackled the Cinema job single-handed and started a flood relief collection in connection with it and the rest of the members went out on relief work at the Rest Centre, received evacuees into their houses, started to clear up homes

and 'stood to' as a body in case of further danger. A quick change-over which met both calls!

Great encouragement came from the wave of sympathy which reached the Area from members of the Family at home and abroad. Many expressed their feelings with all the victims, and with their fellow-members in particular, in the most practical forms.

On Canvey Island

A dramatic glimpse reaches us from the hardest hit corner of the Essex Coast—*Canvey Island*. Gordon Holby, who was out on the spot at midnight when the sea-wall broke, rescuing his neighbours, and who, with the Branch 'jobbie' stayed on the Island throughout the emergency, writes:—

On the Monday night I managed to get to the house of an old lady, aged ninety-four, whom we used to visit for the Blind Association. I never expected to find her or her friend of about eighty alive, but when I eventually reached the house I was amazed to see smoke coming from the chimney. The old lady was unconscious and her friend sitting over the fire—not a bit worried—when I opened the door. They had not seen anybody since the sea-wall had broken. With help I managed to get a stretcher and a boat with which we got the ninety-four-year-old out first and then the other old lady. This was only possible because some chaps from the R.S.P.C.A. helped to carry the stretcher where the water wasn't deep enough to float the boat. These young chaps and some girls did a marvellous job rescuing people as well as animals on the Island.

Essex units in general have given much help to Canvey Branch in providing things they asked for—such practical items, easily overlooked, as pens, ink, writing pads and envelopes, money for locks for doors and material to repair coal bunkers, etc. The Canvey members have concentrated specially on work for the aged and handicapped. Many members in the South-east Essex District have been involved in the reception, billeting and feeding of evacuees.

A Note from Kent

The great 'family' who visit *Warden Manor* in the season has been wondering how this Toc H centre in its exposed position on the low cliffs of the Isle of Sheppey has fared. Vic and Bill Martin, its innkeepers, were themselves able to give the news to nearly four hundred of these members, assembled for a Warden Reunion in London on March 7. Beyond roof-tiles blown off by the eighty-mile-an-hour gale, the old house, which has withstood the tempests of centuries, came through unscathed. On that fateful night Vic was



Toc H members clearing storm damage at Dumpton Gap

called on the telephone by Coastguardsman Colgate, an old friend of 'Wardenites', and set out in his car, with ropes and life-saving gear aboard. He drove down to the Bay, where in the dim light he found a terrifying "wall of water" advancing up the road towards him. He was able to back, turn and get away before it caught him. Driving across to Minster, he made contact with Colgate and Farmer West, whose jeep was submerged (and not recovered for several days). Through field-glasses they saw a flock of sheep, standing belly-deep in the water 'out to sea' and decided to rescue them. They got a boat transported and set to work, wading out, loading the sheep, three at a time, into the boat and dragging it ashore with ropes. This went on steadily for more than a night and a day, and in the end they landed the whole flock of 160 sheep alive. Meanwhile in the low ground towards Sheerness there was very serious loss of livestock; the town itself was under water and the only railway link between the Isle of Sheppey and 'England' was broken and not fully restored for a fortnight.

True to Tradition

From all over the country come letters and newspaper cuttings which show how immediate and spontaneous was the response of Toc H, outside the flooded areas as well as in them, to the emergency. In this they did not lag behind their neighbours of every kind, and obviously no commendation is needed. There was no waiting for 'orders' or organisation to set them to work: they were simply living up to tradition.

B.B.

This Federation

The plan, set out in a Government White Paper, to form a Central African Federation, composed of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, has roused much controversy, both at home and over there, and especially strong opposition on the part of Africans in the three territories. Parliamentary debate, public meetings, and propaganda of all kinds continue for and against the plan, and a long correspondence in The Times, for instance, has included a letter on the Christian attitude to the question signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderators of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church Federal Council, letters from such great authorities on Africa as Miss Margery Perham and Professor W. M. Macmillan (who hold different views), Mr. Creech Jones (a former Colonial Secretary) and many others.

The ultimate responsibility rests with Parliament, as a leading article in this JOURNAL stressed very briefly in July last year. Since then other references in our pages have tried to keep the difficult issue before readers' minds; there was a short summary of both sides of the case by Sir Giles Squire in September, 1952, and letters from members in July, January and March. A number of Branches have "brought the expert to the group" in discussion, and a good example is the action of two Branches (see p. 121 of this issue) in staging a public debate on the subject.

We now print a contribution from a Toc H member on the spot, FRANK GUEST of Salisbury Branch, Southern Rhodesia.

DURING last year I was fortunate enough to have a fairly lengthy stay in the United Kingdom and much as I enjoyed it, I must admit that certain features caused me grave concern. In this letter I propose to deal with the two most disturbing from my point of view.

- (1) The surprising ignorance amongst apparently otherwise well educated people regarding what is still to them—"The Dark Continent".
- (2) Apparently it was considered the right thing to have very strong opinions about what should be done for the African and to treat with disdain anyone who thought otherwise, regardless of the experience or knowledge of the various parties on this subject.

I was privileged to attend quite a few Toc H meetings in various parts of the country and wherever possible I tried to tell those present something of the problems facing the Europeans in Southern Africa, where I have spent some forty years in various areas and have taken, as a member of Toc H, a very keen interest in many efforts to help African and other

non-European folks. I endeavoured to convince those present that the Europeans in Southern Africa have, as a general rule, a very bad Press in the United Kingdom and that we are not all out to exploit those of other colours; and that much outstanding work had been done by many individuals and societies (including Toc H) and successive Governments to help these peoples to bridge in a generation or two the gap which had taken our forebears many centuries to cover in their gradual advance from before-the-Ancient-Briton stage to the present day.

I am glad to say that in Toc H circles I found most people prepared "To Think Fairly" in this regard and "to listen hospitably and humbly to everyman's story and to help the truth to prevail and to find their own convictions, to influence the formation of public opinion and thus to replace social and racial antagonism by intelligent understanding". But I am afraid I could not say this of many other circles—nor of one or two of our Toc H leaders.

Assistance offered

We in Southern Rhodesia have received several requests lately from Toc H units in the United Kingdom for information regarding the Federation issue and my Branch has undertaken to do what they can to give an impartial viewpoint on this question which is of great importance to all in this part of the World. Included in our membership are folk who have spent all their lives in these parts, others who have come to us after living in other parts of the World and some who left your shores in the not too distant past. Moreover we have for some years made an effort to get the expert (including several Africans) to talk to us on our national and local problems. We therefore feel that we can be of some assistance to Units seeking information on African problems and shall be pleased if those interested will write direct to The Hon. Secretary, Toc H, 72, Baines Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

We, at this end, will endeavour to reply as soon as circumstances permit.

* * * *

In a covering letter FRANK GUEST adds:—

We had an excellent talk last Monday by one of the few Africans who understands what Federation is about. He was one of the two Southern Rhodesian Africans to the London Conference last year. Although very critical of some aspects of the problem, he is prepared to support Federation as he considers that, if it will help the European

economically, it must follow that the African will benefit as well—even if only in reflected light. He is Chief Editor of the African newspaper here and has risen to his present position from a moderate school education but with plenty of energy in improving his knowledge of the world in general and his own country in particular. He had a good hearing and dealt expertly with the varied questions fired at him. It is a pity more of the African leaders are not like him: too many are self-seekers and prepared to support any popular cause for their own benefit. This man knows he is risking his political future, and quite possibly his present livelihood, through supporting what is at present an unpopular cause simply because he feels it is his duty to his people.

This brief record of Tubby's visit to New Zealand is contributed by JACK DAVIES, formerly of the home Staff, now Hon. Dominion Secretary.

Tubby in Aotearoa

THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD was very pleasant in its weather for the arrival of Tubby and Julian Brooke when they landed at Harewood Airport, Christchurch, on December 12—Tubby's birthday. To the strains of *Happy Birthday to You* Tubby was greeted by the leaders of Toc H Canterbury and the Rev. Cliff Barber. Cliff, formerly on the Staff of Toc H in England, was deputising for Jack Davies who was unable to greet Tubby in person through business ties.

Tubby and Julian were the guests of the Rt. Rev. Alwyn Warren, the Bishop of Christchurch, and stayed at Bishops-court for the week-end. A simple Family gathering that night saw Tubby take 'Light' as Toc H New Zealand took its due turn in the World Chain.

On Saturday, December 13, Tubby was at the rally of Canterbury Region members and performed that ever-popular ceremony of blowing out the candles on his birthday cake. It was a happy week-end in which Tubby preached at Matins at the Cathedral and met various local folk, whom he promptly proceeded to interest in Toc H and All Hallows church.

On Monday, Tubby and Julian flew to Dunedin, the Edinburgh of New Zealand. Cliff Barber again joined them, having flown back to Wellington for his week-end duties as Vicar of Waiwhetu and then back again by the early morning

plane. At Dunedin, the Editor of the magazine *The Printer* and the Regional Chairman were on deck to welcome them and a very busy, but happy, time followed, with Tubby speaking that night at a Guest-night and being present at the official welcome to the new Governor General and his lady, Sir Willoughby and Lady Norrie, the following evening.

To Wellington

Wednesday, 17th, saw Tubby, Julian and Cliff, in the air once more to reach Wellington by lunch-time. A super-powered Chrysler, kindly loaned by the N.Z. Government was at hand, together with 'Bardy' Olphert (Chairman of Dominion Executive) and Jack Davies to convoy the visitors back to Wellington—an hour's journey away. After a slight contretemps, when Julian had lost all their tickets, they were safely escorted to the Wellington Club where they were met by their host "The Doc"—Sir Fred T. Bowerbank, the Dominion Commissioner. That night after a very pleasant dinner-party, Tubby held forth to the Dominion Executive about the needs of Toc H in New Zealand, particularly from the viewpoint of finance. It was a stimulating evening and the members of 'Domex' were quite sure that a new lead had been given them in the job of planning for the future that is theirs.

There is not space to give fully what Tubby had to do in the two days he was at Wellington but here are a few items. Taking tea with the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Holyoake, on the afternoon of his arrival. The next morning he met the Archbishop of New Zealand, Archbishop Owen, and then went on to lunch at Government House with Sir Willoughby and Lady Norrie, later taking tea with the Mayor. That night a rally of Toc H members and their wives and friends saw Tubby fire his audience with all the old vigour and magic that has characterised his life and work. He first spoke for some fifty minutes about All Hallows, the Winant Volunteers, the City of London, Trinity Square, "Oranges and Lemons" and all that goes to make Tower Hill the place of living tradition that it surely is. The first half of Tubby's speech was followed by an extremely lucid and appealing talk from Julian Brooke, calling for the maintenance of the full Christian tradition in our own lives.

While supper was being served, Tubby saw man after man in the small adjoining room. At midnight in spite of his willingness to go on, and even reluctance to discontinue this

man-to-man talk. Jack Davies at last gathered up the bits and pieces and Tubby was whisked away in the car of the Regional Chairman, Bruce Laws, for part of a night's sleep. The next morning saw him on his way to Auckland.

On to Auckland

Jack Daly writes that Tubby was accorded a tremendous welcome at Whenuapai Airport by the members of the Regional Team and was taken off by Naval car to H.M.N.Z.S. *Philomel*, the shore establishment at Devonport Dockyard. An official welcome in the best Naval tradition was given and Tubby was loaned a room with a view of the Harbour and the services of a most efficient Secretary, from the Shell Oil Co., for the task of taking down some of the answers to the 800 letters awaiting reply—this in spite of the heroic efforts made by Mrs. Grace Sim at Dunedin.

On Saturday a packed house heard Tubby speak for some ninety minutes, and everyone present was convinced that they had heard a real prophet and were eager for more. The next day, Toc H members were invited to the Naval Base for the Morning Service which Tubby conducted and gave the address.

Takapuna group, the newest Toc H baby in Auckland was the scene of Monday's venture. The audience ranged in a semi-circle around Tubby left him a 'quarter-deck' which he freely used, much to everyone's delight.

Farewell !

On Tuesday, December 23, eleven days after he had landed, Tubby boarded the S.S. *Hertford*, a Federal Steamship Line cargo boat, and set sail for Panama from whence he was to fly to Jamaica and thence to the United States. Peter Maxwell and Monty Foster saw him off at 8 a.m. A great welcome from the Chief Steward, the First Officer and finally the Captain, set the seal to what we all hope was as memorable a trip for Tubby as it was for Toc H in New Zealand.

And so, after twenty-seven years, Tubby had returned to New Zealand to meet the members—which he certainly did—and see for himself just what time and fortune had done to the small creation he had left behind him. Toc H in New Zealand is small and weak in many parts, but it still has the vigour to seek new fields of service and to build itself, if not ideally, then at least a little nearer to the heart's desire and the demands of the Founder Padre.

J.D.

MULTUM IN PARVO



- ✽ TUBBY, accompanied by JULIAN BROOKE, is now travelling in the United States and expects to be home from his seven-month tour at the end of this month.
- ✽ Congratulations to SIR ION HAMILTON BENN, Vice-President since 1930, on his ninetieth birthday on March 31.
- ✽ E. E. (TED) LLOYD is acting as Honorary Correspondent for Toc H in WALES.
- ✽ The Hon. Area Correspondent for KENT is JOHN CARTER, 20 Addiscombe Road, Margate, who has succeeded DON WOOLLEY (Ashford), H.A.C. for the last four years.
- ✽ THE REV. S. R. (BOB) BOLTON is now the Rector of Nettleton as well as Lincolnshire Area Padre.
- ✽ IAIN FRASER, Lakeland Area Secretary, will be moving in mid-April to Bank House, Stainton, Penrith, Cumberland.
- ✽ THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS, published in this issue, will be discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Central Council on April 18-19. A report of the meeting will be published in the June (not May) issue of this JOURNAL.
- ✽ PAINTING IS A PLEASURE: Under this title, MRS. REX BENSON is arranging for the benefit of Toc H a Coronation Exhibition of pictures by distinguished people who paint for a hobby, to be held at the Trafford Gallery, 119 Mount Street, London, W.1, from May 6 to June 12.
- ✽ CLACTON-ON-SEA BRANCH in Essex are staging a Commonwealth and Empire Exhibition at the Town Hall on Whit Monday until May 28.
- ✽ THE FESTIVAL IN LONDON, JUNE 13-14: The allocation of seats at the Royal Festival Hall and Westminster Abbey is now being made.
- ✽ THE TWENTIES CAMPS for fit members between sixteen and thirty years of age at Langdale in Lakeland from June 13 to 20 and at Hawkshill on the Kent Coast from July 11 to 18. Particulars from and bookings at 47 Francis Street.
- ✽ BRANCH SECRETARIES can often save correspondence by referring to the 1953 edition of "THE TOC H SIGNPOST".

ON OUR BRANCH



Last month's experiment of printing accounts received from 'average' Branches met with a very good response and here is a further selection giving either an over-all picture or portraying a particular aspect of Branch activities. Other Branches are warmly invited to send in their contributions, written within the compass of two hundred words, for possible inclusion in this feature.

CASH AND CARRY AT BRANDON

In BRANDON (Suffolk) we run what we call a "Jobs Fund", quite separately from the ordinary unit accounts, upon which we call for all our charitable expenditure, the most regular of which is our work for the Old Folk.

Ways of 'raking in the shekels' for this fund have been many and various—dances, whist drives, carol-singing and even Jumble Sales! A hectic bout of carol-singing always precedes our annual Christmas Party. A mixed gang from both sections (Sorry!—Toc H and the Toc H Women's Association), muffled to the ears in invariably bitter weather, trails round the town, with the Branch's 'wheezy-anna' on a member's lorry, or out to the American air-base several miles up the road, where, for "security reasons", they have to be accompanied on their peregrinations by an armed guard! The proceeds are turned, very shortly afterwards, into a turkey and ham supper, with Christmas pudding, mince pies, crackers, sweets, cigarettes, etc., for a hundred or so "Old Friends" of seventy and over. A concert party follows.

We also run an "Old Friends Club" where, every Thursday, they can come for a game, chat and cup of tea, and in the summer we take four big bus-loads of not-so-young guests for an outing to the seaside.

A.H.M.

'TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION'

from 'The Four Points of the Compass'

COULSDON and PURLEY Branches of U.N.A. and Toc H discovered, in time, that each had planned a public discussion on the Central Africa Federation Scheme for the week ending February 28. Toc H gave way to U.N.A., but Sir Giles Squire was invited to be the principal speaker for the scheme.

Sir Giles Squire considered that the scheme had been well and carefully thought out, and would benefit all the territories

concerned. He said that individually their economies were so unbalanced and so dependent on each other that it was difficult to see what other alternative was open to them. He acknowledged that a great deal of African opposition to the scheme existed but considered that much of it was due to ignorance and some to agitators and trouble-makers. He felt that African rights would be sufficiently safe-guarded by the African Affairs Board, which could report to the Prime Minister for submission to the Secretary of State, any Bill by which, in their opinion, Africans were subjected or made liable to any conditions, restrictions or disabilities disadvantageous to them, to which Europeans were not also subjected or made liable.

Commander William Fox-Pitt, secretary of Racial Unity and formerly a District Officer in Northern Rhodesia, opposed the scheme. He instanced the poverty of Nyasaland and attributed it to the fact that she provides Southern and Northern Rhodesia with workers from whose labours she received little return. Under Federation she would, he said, become a reservoir of cheap labour. Southern Rhodesia, he said, is a self-governing territory, has a colour-bar economy and Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia were naturally suspicious of closer association with her. Africans feared that their rights and especially their trade unions would be endangered. The Commander felt that their distrust for a scheme setting up a Federal Assembly with a membership of thirty-five and only six of that number Africans, was reasonable.

C.B.W.

RADIOS FOR AGED

EAST BARNET Toc H has achieved remarkable success in its appeal for battery and mains radio sets on behalf of East Barnet Old People's Welfare Association, and has done excellent work in repairing and installing them in the homes of local old people.

The Branch appealed to members through the Toc H JOURNAL, and a quick response came from all parts of the country, including Aberdeen, Newcastle, Chester, Southport, Stourbridge, Leicester, Dartmouth, Reading, Guildford, Harrow, Carshalton, as well as from London, Hoddesdon, and the Barnet area.

A local appeal, made by the Kimberworth (Yorks.) Toc H Branch resulted in eight sets and many component parts being

received. The problem of transport was resolved by a local contractor, who carried them from Rotherham to East Barnet free of charge.

—*The Barnet Press.*



AMERICAN AIRMEN AND BRITISH BLIND

Over two years ago, WITNEY Branch, in conjunction with the Oxford Society for the Blind gave a Christmas party for the blind folk of Witney and District. Apart from our guests meeting one another for the first time for a chat, refreshments and an entertainment were provided.

The venture was such a success that it was decided to hold similar parties once a month, and various organisations such as the British Legion, Boys Brigade, Girl Guides, etc., were persuaded to co-operate. This has now become a regular feature, but fresh local talent has been difficult to find, so for the last party run by Toc H, an approach was made to Brize Norton United States Air Station. The Americans provided the Blue Notes Quartet, a close harmony combination which has achieved marked success in the United States Forces entertainment world, and although most of the blind visitors were elderly, they thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The Americans mingled with their audience afterwards, expressing their pleasure at being invited to perform. The above picture shows the Quartet, some of the blind guests and members of Toc H. Witney.

A.E.S.

HOW TO JOIN TOC H

On a duplicated sheet, BOLTON Branch have drafted their own answer to give to newcomers enquiring how to join, together with details of time and place of meetings.

The following is set down for the benefit of those who, from time to time have made the acquaintance of Toc H, and having got over the original shock are now asking the question, "How do I join Toc H?" Here is the answer:—

- (a) First let it clearly be stated that no one joins Toc H. The Family absorbs you when you are ready to be absorbed.
- (b) Seeing that Toc H is a Family and not an institution, you must get to know the members and life of the family, and enter fully into its fellowship by sharing its responsibilities.
- (c) When the Jobmaster calls for volunteers for service—"the rent we pay for our room on earth"—don't kill him in the rush, merely intimate your willingness to give, in time and energy.
- (d) The only test of membership in Toc H is willingness to serve.
- (e) When you feel that you are beginning to understand what this happy family is, what it is striving to become, and what it demands of you, and you are prepared to render service as well as accept fellowship, then—
 - (i) ask the secretary for a membership form;
 - (ii) get two members whom you know, and who know the worst about you to be your proposer and seconder;
 - (iii) hand the form back to the secretary.
- (f) Not, however, before you have read with care the "Four points of the Compass" set forth on the back of the Membership Form.
- (g) Be prepared to wait, warble, and work while your enthusiasm is tested. Toc H wants 'goods' and not 'passengers'.
- (h) Ask the Pilot to show you some literature. He will explain to you the aims, origins, and working of the family.

Finally, don't be in a hurry. When you feel that this thing has got you and won't let you go, then is the time to consider membership. Meanwhile **KEEP COMING.**



1952

THE THIRTY-THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT OF
TOC H

WITH THE BALANCE SHEET
AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Published on behalf of
THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE OF TOC H
47 FRANCIS STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

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- (c) When the Jobmaster calls for volunteers for service—"the rent we pay for our room on earth"—don't kill him in the rush, merely intimate your willingness to give, in time and energy.
- (d) The only test of membership in Toc H is willingness to serve.
- (e) When you feel that you are beginning to understand what this happy family is, what it is striving to become, and what it demands of you, and you are prepared to render service as well as accept fellowship, then—
 - (i) ask the secretary for a membership form;
 - (ii) get two members whom you know, and who know the worst about you to be your proposer and seconder;
 - (iii) hand the form back to the secretary.
- (f) Not, however, before you have read with care the "Four points of the Compass" set forth on the back of the Membership Form.
- (g) Be prepared to wait, warble, and work while your enthusiasm is tested. Toc H wants 'goods' and not 'passengers'.
- (h) Ask the Pilot to show you some literature. He will explain to you the aims, origins, and working of the family.

Finally, don't be in a hurry. When you feel that this thing has got you and won't let you go, then is the time to consider membership. Meanwhile **KEEP COMING.**



BOYS' CLUBS IN UGANDA

By CHARLES POTTS, *the Senior Community Development Officer, Kampala.*

THREE YEARS AGO the newly-appointed Welfare Officer, Kampala, decided that it was high time that Boys' Clubs were started in Uganda. In Kampala area there are hundreds of young boys who have had no opportunity to go to school and who are open to all the temptations common to adolescents in a town and its environs. The difficulty of starting such clubs lay in finding suitable club leaders, who would run the clubs on the right lines and bring a right influence upon the boys. He had himself had considerable experience in working with the National Association of Boys' Clubs in England and Scotland, but he had not the time available to run such clubs by himself. In need of help he appealed to Kampala Branch of Toc H.

As in most cases where an appeal is made to Toc H to meet social service needs, the response was immediate, and the first Boys' Club, known as Kampala Boys' Club, was formed. It started on February 14, 1950, and Messrs. Bonnett and Emery of Toc H agreed to take turns with the Welfare Officer in supervising the club every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Alas, both of these Toc H members have now left Kampala, but the Toc H interest survives.

The club was housed at an old mud and wattle, thatched-roofed, hut at the Social Welfare Training Centre between the Kampala Technical School and Makerere College. One night a few months after the club had started, a storm destroyed the whole building; only a pile of rubble was to be seen next morning. Fortunately neither Toc H nor the boys despaired. They continued to meet twice a week out-of-doors.

Toc H and the Welfare Officer then decided to build another hut. With a grant from the Public Relations and Social Welfare Department they bought the wood, the nuts, bolts and nails, and the corrugated aluminium, and with their own brains and hands built the hut which they still use. It is a bit primitive, a bit ramshackle; its roof leaks, its doors and shutters do

not fit too well; but Kampala Boys' Club and Toc H are proud of it. The boys helped in the building. One boy was unlucky to have a roof truss collapse on his head, but what a tough head he had! A large bump arose on his forehead but he was back at the club next day as keen as ever.

The Welfare Officer then detailed one Welfare Assistant to be in charge of boys' clubs. He now acts as regular leader of the Kampala Boys' Club and a second club in the village of Wakiso, eleven miles from Kampala, the Senkezi Boys' Club, which owes its start to the enthusiastic support of Mr. Tamukede who was then Gombolola Chief at Wakiso.

A third club, Mengo Boys' Club, started in early 1952, run by the Welfare Assistant who is acting as Warden of the new Mengo Social Centre. Toc H acts as a Board of Trustees for all three clubs and is now trying to organise a separate management committee for each of the clubs. The Welfare Department, whose title has been changed to the Community Development Department, continues to help with supervision and advice. The Department also assists some school clubs in Busoga. Kampala Boys' Club and Senkezi Boys' Club have now been accepted by the National Association of Boys' Clubs as corresponding members.

On December 6, 1952, Toc H and the Community Development Department organised a combined Boys' Club Show at the Mengo Social Centre. Lady Cohen very kindly attended and presented prizes and badges, which are similar to those of the N.A.B.C., only with the letters "U.B.C." (Uganda Boys' Clubs) substituted. Prizes were given for the garden competition. Parents of the boys had been asked to give a small plot of land to each boy to cultivate vegetables and cotton. The first prize was a hoe and a basin, with the idea that the boy can have a bath in the basin when he is tired and hot from cultivating with the hoe! The boys gave demonstrations of some of their activities, physical training, boxing, wrestling, painting, pottery, tin-smithing and indoor games. Lady Cohen spoke of the importance of developing Boys' Clubs, the need of men to volunteer as leaders of such clubs and the need for financial support. The show finished with a concert given by the boys. Amongst those who attended the show were the Hon. the Acting Resident of Buganda and Mrs. Moss, the Hon. C. L. Holcom, His Worship the Mayor of Kampala and several representatives of various Government Departments.



Kampala and Senkezi Boys' Club members maintaining a precarious balance at a combined show

His Highness, the Kabaka of Buganda was unfortunately away from Kampala and was therefore unable to attend.

A recent article in the vernacular press has interested more people in promoting boys' clubs. One of the African White Fathers is now starting one at Gayaza and Mr. Iga, one of the staff at the Cotton Research Station, is starting one at Namulonge. Toc H is intending soon to form a Buganda Federation of Boys' Clubs, which, it is hoped, will inspire other provinces to follow suit.

The aims of the boys' clubs are threefold, the mental, physical and spiritual development of the boys. Such a movement, if well supported and led, can be a powerful instrument in the character training of Uganda youth, upon whom the future of the Protectorate depends. More voluntary leaders and more money and equipment are wanted. The boys pay only ten cents each per month by way of club subscription. It need hardly be said that an income of about three shillings per month to each club will not go very far. Great Britain has become "boys' club conscious": it is the aim and hope of Toc H and the Community Development Department that the same will soon be true of Uganda.

IN THE STEPS OF MOSES

On January 5, 1953, five vehicles set off from Talbot House, Fanara, to take seven members of Fanara Group of Toc H on a five days' journey along part of the route followed by Moses and the Israelites from Moses' Wells to Mount Sinai.

Memories remain of progress slow and wearying; a precarious drive in darkness through the Arab town of Pharon; rocky tracks which threatened to break vehicles and passengers; swirling dust and exhaust fumes mingling as the smaller trucks attempted to force a way through the soft sand (the desolate wastes of the Plain of Sin and the Wadi Solaf). But there were also moments of elation; the triumphant race over the last few miles until the cavalcade became dwarfed by majestic peaks, bathed in the rich reflection of the setting sun; the beautiful meandering "Valley of the Writings", whose ancient rocks still bear the inscription carved there in Aramic, Hebrew and Greek, some three thousand years ago; such scenes as these were ample compensation for any discomfort of travelling, and the finest experience was yet to be.

After the heat and turmoil of the journey there was, within the massive walls of St. Catherine's Monastery, set amongst fir trees on the slopes of Mount Horab, a perfect tranquility; an atmosphere most telling in the Sanctuary of the Chapel, or in the Chapel of the Burning Bush (entered bare-footed, according to tradition). Everywhere was colour, intricate ornamentation, magnificence, and to the glories of the Chapel the party returned before leaving, for a celebration of Holy Communion attended by the Archbishop of Sinai, who was visiting the Monastery for the Eastern Christmas. This was the second celebration of the week—the first had been on the Feast of the Epiphany, when the bonnet of the jeep served as an altar amidst the sandstone hills of the Wadi Budra. During the short visit, the party was conducted to the Chapel of St. Stephen, the Refectory, through the garden to the Charnel House, and back to the Library, which, though containing innumerable priceless and beautiful volumes, still bemoans the loss of its own *Codes Sinaiticus*, for which the British Museum is today the richer.

To Frank Coleman-Cross, whose idea it was, and to all who contributed to the success of the week, heartfelt thanks are given for those few, impressive hours at St. Catherine's, and, indeed, for the unique experience of the whole journey.

G.M.



FIGURES OF SPEECH

The Tyranny of Words: A Toc H Phrase Book. By Herbert Leggate. (Toc H. 1s. 6d.)

For most of us, the only means we have for conveying thoughts and ideas to others is by the spoken or written word. Universal as these methods are, there still exist barriers that often block the way to complete comprehension. In setting down words on paper we can only suggest the all-important intonation that goes with them—"it ain't wot 'e sed, its *how* 'e sed it!"

In giving tongue to our thoughts, one of the snags is that of differing word-values. Even the simplest of words can, and often does, mean different things to different folk. The word 'fellowship' holds a warm and homely meaning for most of us within the Movement, but not so for everybody. When a sixth-former at a famous public school read a Toc H introductory leaflet his comment, inspired by his own word-picture of 'fellowship', was "it stinks!"

This little book is no academic dissertation on the finer points of English grammar. In ten, short, pungent chapters the writer examines some of the phrases peculiar to Toc H, determined that none shall be embalmed for old-association's sake. In doing so, his own words make a valuable contribution to the life and purpose of Toc H today. C.

CHRISTIANITY'S PLACE

Christianity. By S. C. Carpenter. (A Pelican Book, Penguin 2s.)

This is a useful book for anyone who seeks to understand the place of Christianity in history. It is not a book for the specialist in theology or church history, but rather for those who wish to acquaint themselves with the results of the studies of such specialists. It is written in a popular style and there is no attempt to put forward any sectarian view of Christianity.

The section which deals with the evangelical revival in the latter part of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth century is the least adequate part of the book. "Methodism was a large part of it but part of it came strictly within the limits of the Church of England." The greater part

of this section is concerned with the developments within the Church of England. I hasten to say, however, that this is obviously due to the writer's more intimate acquaintance with those developments rather than to any spirit of partisanship. Indeed, the book is completely free from dogmatism. Some may find it too orthodox but it is certainly not fearful of new knowledge. It ought to be very useful to intelligent Christians and especially to those who are associated with work among young people. They can confidently recommend it to those of their charges who wish to know more about the place of Christianity in the modern world. H.L.



Destination Poperinghe

A monthly link
with The Old House

Information

Up-to-date information likely to be useful to members travelling to Poperinghe can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Pilgrimage Secretary, Toc H, 47 Francis Street, S.W.1.

Accommodation

The on-the-spot charge for accommodation in the Old House is 50 francs for one night and 40 francs for each subsequent night. If booked in advance through the Pilgrimage Secretary in London, the rate is 40 francs for the first and 30 francs for each subsequent night.

August Week-end

A special August Bank Holiday week-end visit is being led by Charles Jackson (Croydon) of the Old House Committee for all members and friends who would like to join. Leave London 11.0 p.m. (approx.) Friday, July 31. Arrive back in London Monday, August 3, 8.30 p.m. or Tuesday, August 4, 9.0 a.m. Allow £1 per day for board and lodging and £7 for return fare London/Poperinghe. Extensions possible for same fare. Double bedrooms.



Builders' Jubilee

THE SHORTEST MONTH of the year saw the enrolment of 59 new Toc H Builders and their welcome into the Family. We wish them much satisfaction in their association with us and thank them for their support. These bring the total new enrolments to 172 since November 1, including 51 through the WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

South-Western Area takes the honours for the highest number of 8 enrolments in February and climbs to the top of the Builders' Jubilee League with a total of 16 new Builders since November 1, 1952.

Kent Area now takes second place with 15 names, including 6 February enrolments.

Western Area is in the third place with 9 enrolments.

North London is fourth with 8. Mill Hill Branch reminds us that they secured 28 Builders in the last financial year.

From Overseas as well as from home, loyal Toc H Builders continue their subscriptions. In recent weeks they have come from Nackara, South Australia; Napier, New Zealand; Baltimore, U.S.A.; Perah, Malaya; Malta; Paris; Natal, South Africa; Lake Magadi, and Naivasha, Kenya Colony; Birdpur Estate, India.

We give special welcome to Lieut.-Commander Harry Williams and Jack Harris blind members of Fareham Branch. Jim Porteous, Branch Secretary writes "both are blind and have been attending our Branch for some months. They felt they ought to do something for Toc H, so we enrolled them as Builders rather than as Members. Harry Williams is eighty-three and Jack Harris is over sixty. Believe me, they are already giving us quite a lot and if they don't turn up, a meeting doesn't seem quite the same."

K.A.R.

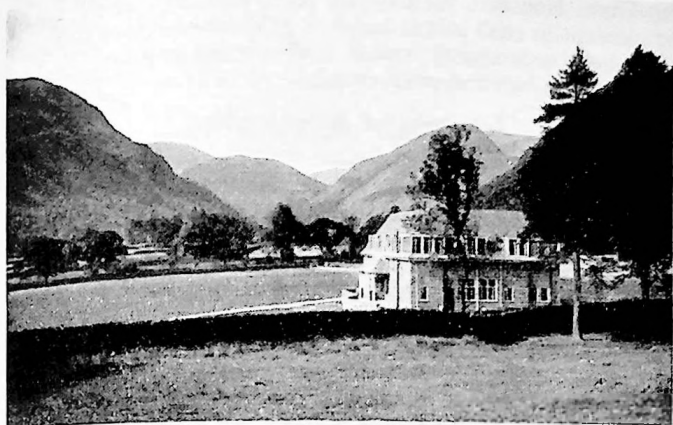
Readers of this topical article who would like to have further details are invited to apply direct to the General Secretary, The Co-operative Holidays Association, Birch Hays, Cromwell Range, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

Holidays that are different

THE CHOICE OF HOLIDAYS is a matter in which there should be the greatest possible scope for individual preference. There is no 'right' kind of holiday for every person and every occasion, any more than there is any 'right' kind of hat for every head: but there is a holiday which is different from all others and manifestly better than some, and an association, therefore, came into existence to make such a holiday possible. It commenced operations sixty years ago as an informal group of ramblers and nature lovers. Later a society was formed under the title of the "Co-operative Holidays Association" with an office, a constitution, a common seal and all other outward and visible signs of a stable and businesslike organisation. It was to provide holidays that should be "physically bracing, mentally stimulating and spiritually uplifting". This may sound a little formidable, but in practice it turns out that they are also very delightful. The title of the Association was adopted because the word "Co-operative" exactly expresses the vital principle of the movement—the members work and play together for the common happiness and benefit.

Away from Crowds

Leaving the conventional holiday resorts with their crowded promenades and forced gaiety to those who appreciate them, the Association establishes large Guest Houses in such out-of-the-way beauty spots as Onich in the Scottish Highlands, Whitby on the Yorkshire Coast and Eskdale in the Lake Country. Each Guest House is a little commonwealth where good fellowship and a thoroughly democratic spirit prevail. There is no exclusiveness. We are not working class, nor middle class, nor professional class—we welcome every companionable sort of person who likes our way of spending a holiday. And it is a very excellent way. In the morning we sally forth under the guidance of an experienced leader to climb Ben Nevis, Cader Idris or Great Gable, or for a ten or fifteen miles tramp over the breezy moorlands of Craven or Peakland, Exmoor or Dartmoor; or along



"Glaramara" the C.H.A. Centre at Borrowdale

the cliffs of County Devon or the smooth green Downs of Southern England. Lunch is eaten and enjoyed by the side of a mountain beck or in the shelter of a friendly farmhouse. An informal gathering in the common room for music and singing and for games and dancing, completes the day's programme. The Association has always made quite a feature of its social singing, and issues to its members a song book containing an excellent collection of songs, mostly suitable for singing in chorus.

Interest and enjoyment

Those who are attracted by the idea, but who may be deterred by the fear of being 'alone' with a crowd of strangers, may like to know that at every centre there is a Host and Hostess: educated, sociable men and women, whose business it is to see that no one feels 'out of it' and to contribute all they can to the interest and enjoyment of the holiday. The Association has always taken the view that a little mental stimulus is not out of place even on a holiday.

It may be said, however, the most valuable educative work the Association does is that achieved through the simple communal life of the holiday-educative in that art of social life which consists chiefly in an adequate realisation of the fact that there are other people in the world besides oneself. An atmosphere of tolerance, kindness and helpfulness pervades

our Guest Houses. We have no rules that compel people to be pleasant to each other, and it is difficult to know how this spirit has been created, but it is there and can be felt and observed in a hundred small ways.

International understanding

An important interest of the Association is in international understanding, and groups of visitors from abroad are frequently met at the home centres. Over forty Continental centres and tours are including in the programme ranging from the Norwegian Fjords to the Mediterranean Islands including walking tours in Slovenia, the Bernese Oberland, the Dolomites, a visit to the Salzburg Music Festival, summer schools to Italy and centres in most European countries.

A feature of the Association's work is the provision of Free Holidays for necessitous people. During certain weeks each year a number of the Guest Houses are given over to the entertainment of poor and overworked men and women who have no resources out of which they can obtain for themselves the occasional week of rest and freedom from care, without which the strain of life becomes intolerable. The funds for this good work are collected at the informal Sunday evening services that are held at each Guest House. F.S.W.

Relative Jobs

This article, here slightly abridged, formed the basis of the Jobmaster's report to the Rotherham Branch members at their Annual General Meeting.

NO ONE will play down the function of the 'job' in the corporate life of the Movement. Toc H jobs are of importance by virtue of their objective value, that is, they alleviate human suffering, they make life a little brighter for everyone, and like 'the Card' they cheer us all up. Then there is the job's subjective value, that is, its character-training qualities: what it does to those performing the service. And of course the job is a test of discipleship.

All these three factors make the Toc H job very important indeed. It is an integral part of Toc H, and this fact is so universally recognised that some members assess the "life"

and value of a Branch by the number and type of jobs it performs. This is taking things too far. On this basis you can often produce a very impressive balance sheet to impress the Guard of the Lamp, without giving the whole truth about a unit.

In twenty years' association with this Movement I have often heard the expression "the ideal Toc H job". I would say that to describe any job we favour as the 'ideal' Toc H job is not only meaningless but harmful. Usually when we say that a particular Toc H job is 'ideal' we really mean that it has a particular appeal for us. The fact that a job makes a particularly strong appeal to a person is no detriment—in fact, the greater the interest, the better the job done. But it does not follow that the job which makes the greatest appeal, either to oneself as an individual or to the majority of the members, is more important than a less, shall I say, 'glamorous' one.

Mood of the age

I have come to the conclusion that the popularity of a certain class of jobs in Toc H does reflect, to a certain extent, the mood of the age. And the mood of the age favours what the man in the street calls 'practical' Christianity. Perhaps typical examples of what goes by this name are the willingness with which, say, Round Table finds cars for disabled people, Toc H collects old illustrated papers for local hospitals, and Rotary find the funds for poor boys' camps. This is a type of community service that has become very fashionable in recent years, and is of course very creditable to everyone concerned.

But consider this other trend, equally typical of the days in which we live, exemplified in a dire shortage of Sunday School teachers. We talk a lot about "Service", but a local Sunday School has had to close recently, not because there was any shortage of funds, not because there was any shortage of scholars, but because there was no one to teach them. My own parish has had to abandon its Girls' Brigade, simply because one leader resigned, and out of a well-educated congregation there could not be found one solitary person to take her place.

After reading *English Life and Leisure* I am more than ever of the opinion that, in the present moral state of this country, the character-building job is as important as any other. Its very unpopularity adds to its value. I always feel about the

job of the Sunday School teacher and the lay-reader that it is rather like the iceberg. For every hour of influence exerted from the rostrum you can reckon many hours of preparation, reading, study, drafting and re-drafting. These jobs demand sacrifice, dedication and preparation. When I turn out with the car for the Inskip League it is an act of service involving some element of sacrifice. But it can scarcely be called an act of self-dedication. So in talking about the grand corporate jobs some units are doing, let us remember that some of the less spectacular service demands most of the giver.

Valuable witness

In the old days we spoke of a Toc H unit as a "human zoo". The more a Branch justified that title the more typical of Toc H it was. We should also remember that one unit varies as much from another as individuals in a unit vary. There are of course Toc H constants—the spirit of gallant and high-hearted happiness for instance. But it remains a fact that the differences between our units and between our members are as valuable a part of the Toc H witness as the many other things we hold in common.

One unit, in its choice of undertakings, is not so publicity-conscious as another. But there is no measuring-rod whereby we may judge their relative values. We can't grade Toc H jobs in the same way that the A.A. grades hotels. There is no such thing as a four-starred Toc H job as compared with an unstarred one. In assessing jobs there are at least eight factors, although as to relative values we should never agree. Here they are:—

1. How far the job meets the hitherto neglected needs of the community it serves.
2. Publicity value of the job for Toc H as a whole.
3. Recruiting and good-will value for the local unit in particular. The "legitimate advertising value".
4. Spirit in which the job is carried out.
5. Degree of support by members as a whole. "Popularity" of the job.
6. Capacity of the Branch to do the job.
7. Character-building or training value of the job.
8. Staying power of members to see the job through to its logical conclusion.

One of the trials of a jobmaster is the aptitude of some members, especially those who have been absent for some considerable time, to develop a sudden passion for a particular

type of public service, and to hawk its merits before the unit, without first consulting the Jobmaster. I strongly advocate consultation with the Jobbie first. If he is really interested in his office he will know the commitments of the fellows in the unit already.

Men for Malaya

A LETTER has reached the General Secretary from Mr. Richard West, of the Colonial Service in Malaya. He writes:—"I think that you know that we already have two members of Toc H—in the persons of Frank Field and Bob Purdy—working as Emergency Administrative Officers in the Federation of Malaya. It will be no surprise to you to hear that we regard them as exceptionally valuable officers.

"During my leave which commences on March 11, I shall be endeavouring to recruit further officers for a service which is, I think, recognised to be of exceptional importance and interest to all convinced Christians. Bob Purdy tells me that you might have some further candidates."

In another letter Mr. West writes:—"What we want are men of convinced Christian background, with experience of social service, a desire to improve the lot of suffering humanity and no reluctance for hard work under uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous circumstances. A challenge in fact!"

Any member interested is asked to apply to the General Secretary at 47 Francis Street, S.W.1, for particulars, which should soon be available.

* * * *

Bob Purdy himself—after an amusing description of Chinese New Year, with food, fireworks and all-in wrestling—writes:—"I have discovered more than ever just what a great thing Toc H is—and if more of our membership will cease contemplating their own navels and have a vision that lifts their eyes to wide horizons we can forget petty difficulties in the high-hearted happiness which is the portion of the adventurous in spirit."



DE VALL.—On February 10. ARTHUR HENRY DE VALL, aged 82, a member of Rugeley Branch. Elected 6.5.'33.

DRAISEY.—On February 7. HAROLD W. W. DRAISEY, aged 55, a member of Hounslow Branch. Elected 9.2.'32.

FOULDS.—On January 31. EUSTACE B. FOULDS ('The Baron'), aged 67, a member of Harpenden Branch. Elected 20.6.'32.

GRIFFITHS.—On December 22. THOMAS GRIFFITHS, aged 65, a member of Twickenham Branch. Elected 5.2.'26.

HILLIER.—On November 8. HENRY JAMES HILLIER, a member of St. Peter Port Branch, Guernsey. Elected 1.7.'29.

MACHRAY.—On February 13. FRANK MACHRAY, aged 62, a member of Bishop's Stortford Branch. Elected 4.1.'40.

MARSDEN.—On February 4. JAMES FREDERICK MARSDEN, aged 59, a member of Hallam Branch (Sheffield). Elected 11.11.'35.

NASH.—On February 19. SIDNEY NASH, aged 59, a founder member of Rodbourne Cheney Branch. Elected 21.10.'38.

PITTMAN.—On February 26. WILLIAM HENRY PITTMAN, aged 62, chairman of Kentish Town Branch. Elected 11.12.'30.

RANDOLPH.—On February 7. Lieut.-Col. ALGERNON FORBES RANDOLPH, C.M.G., D.S.O., D.L., aged 87, a member of Worthing Branch. Elected 1.1.'25.

RUSHTON.—On February 25. RICHARD FRANCIS RUSHTON, aged 62, a member of Brighton Branch. Elected 26.7.'50.

SPENDER.—On January 21. Rev. ALAN SPENDER, O.B.E., aged 42, a member of Central General Branch. Elected 10.6.'43.

WEST.—On February 17. HERBERT WEST, aged 53, a member of Farnborough Branch. Elected 1.12.'50.

H.M. Queen Mary

When QUEEN MARY died on March 24 Toc H lost a true friend and All Hallows Church a great helper. When the scheme to complete the fine old organ was set on foot she lent her name to the undertaking and presented the first organ-pipe, and when this, together with most of the fabric, was destroyed by enemy action, she showed her sympathy among the ruins of the church and her warm interest in its rebuilding. Her visits to Tower Hill have left a rich memory of a most gracious and lively presence among all who met her there.



Open

HUSTINGS

The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H, but takes no responsibility for opinions expressed. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters received.

The Elder Brethren

DEAR EDITOR,

To make more realistic the affirmation, "We will remember them", which we all repeat when 'Light' is taken at our weekly meetings, our Branch has taken various Elder Brethren as its theme. The first of these has been Dr. John Stansfeld, and in consequence we have purchased a copy of *The Doctor* for our Branch library. May I suggest that every unit makes this treasure their own and recommends every member to read it?

To do this is surely to know how God can, and does, use one truly dedicated life to reap a harvest of men, whose influence and witness reach to the ends of the earth. Among them are the pioneers of Toc H whom we honour and love.

'UNCLE HENRY.'

Coulsdon Branch.

Voice in the Garden

DEAR EDITOR,

The "Letter to a Gardener" in a recent issue of the JOURNAL opens up a vista for Toc H which one hopes may be fully explored. In whatever sense we interpret the eternal realities of which the Main Resolution speaks, we are

pledged to listen now and always for the voice of God and to know His Will revealed in Christ. Loving our brothers whom we have seen, we may and should have regard to the Beloved whom we have not seen. The voice is relayed to man's twentieth-century "garden" through unseen messengers, who would say "forget us in considering the aspect of truth which we bring, and know that we serve in love, as do you, by His Grace".

I reiterate the appeal which I made to the Central Council between the wars to listen to these counsellors as they tell of life in the unseen, the heavenly hierarchies and the Christ. I shall be pleased to supply copies of prints of such messages and others to interested members who may write to me.

JOHN W. SYMONDS.

29, Morrison Avenue,
London, N.17.

"While there's life . . ."

DEAR EDITOR,

Being at home since last August, semi-convalescing, I have been reading the JOURNAL right through, from cover to cover. This is something I had never done before. I can't think why.

and I now realise how much interest it holds. The JOURNAL definitely gives the lie to any rumour that Toc H is dying a slow death through lack of younger members.

I feel sure we shall overcome the problem of attracting youth because we *want* to; we can always do the thing we *really* want to do.

JOHN B. WHALLEY.
Ferndown, Dorset.

DEAR EDITOR.

I don't agree with your correspondent that the "JOURNAL is dull", and it seems at least doubtful whether his suggestions would improve it. It seems to me to be better than it used to be.

A. ST. G. WALSH.
Chester.

Children's Holidays

DEAR EDITOR.

The Children's Country Holidays Fund would greatly appreciate help from Toc H members living within 200 miles of London who could offer a holiday home to one or more poor London school children during July and August. We also badly need Camp Supervisors to accompany parties of small boys to various Camps.

Last year the Fund sent away 5,497 children into the country to private homes and camps, and we do not want to have to disappoint the many boys and girls who are living in hopes of being one of the "lucky" ones this year.

For full details please write direct to The General Secretary, The Children's Country Holidays Fund, 18 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2.

DOREEN O. CRACKAN THORPE,
London, W.C.2.

Tulip Time

DEAR EDITOR,

Spalding will soon be holding its 'Tulip Week' when local growers will display their tulip farms to all who wish to see them.

As in past years, the Spalding Branch is preparing tea for visitors to its meeting-room and to do the job as well, if not better than in past years, we should like to know in plenty of time what visitors to expect. Letters from Branch Secretaries should be sent direct to me stating the date and numbers.

H. SCOTT.

*Secretary, Spalding Branch,
5, Knipe Avenue,
Spalding, Lincs.*

Wanted—a T.T.T.

DEAR EDITOR,

We have a number of youngsters ranging from fifteen years, some of whom are very keen on table tennis. We wonder whether there is a Branch with a surplus tennis table or knows where one could be obtained at a reasonable figure. If so, would they please get in touch with me?

ARCHIE WISEMAN.

*Rosemary House,
Beck Row,
Bury St. Edmunds.*